

Salmonellosis

Background. Salmonellosis is an enteric disease caused by bacterial infection.[^] Most persons with salmonellosis develop diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps 12 to 72 hours after infection. Illness usually lasts four to seven days, and most persons recover without treatment. Salmonella are usually transmitted by eating foods contaminated with animal feces. Contaminated foods are often of animal origin but all foods, including vegetables, may become contaminated. Every year, approximately 40,000 cases of salmonellosis are reported in the United States. Because many milder cases are not diagnosed or reported, the actual number of infections may be 30 or more times greater.

[^] CDC > Division of Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases > Disease Information. *Health Topics A to Z.*

Reporting. In Missouri, salmonellosis has been a reportable disease for over ten years. Cases are reported to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) through the Missouri Health Surveillance Information System (MOHSIS). Based on a combination of clinical and laboratory criteria, cases are assigned a status of confirmed, probable, suspect, etc. Only confirmed and probable cases are presented here.

Nationally, salmonellosis is a reportable disease. Cases are reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). NNDSS data for 2003 was not available at the time of analysis.

